



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
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Press Release

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ATTORNEY GENERAL AND COUNTY SHERIFFS ANNOUNCE STATEWIDE GAS WATCH

County Sheriffs joined Attorney General Darrell McGraw today to announce a Statewide Gas Watch, established by the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, which will act as a consumer watchdog for the citizens of West Virginia.

The Consumer Protection Division is looking for price variance across each county, as well as clusters of gas stations that keep their prices the same, possibly "fixed", and watching for other possible violations of the law to be investigated by the Attorney General.

"This project is in response to the many complaints that West Virginia's citizens have been calling into my office, almost on a daily basis. As the Attorney General, I am charged with protecting West Virginia Consumers, and I intend to find out if West Virginians are being taken advantage of when they fill up their automobiles with a necessary commodity."

Currently, twenty-seven (27) County Sheriff's Departments are participating in the Statewide Gas Watch project, and additional participants are anticipated. Each participating Department maintains a daily log of gasoline prices in their county. At the end of each week, those logs are faxed to the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division, which will analyze the data and make reports to the newspapers whenever a discrepancy is found. Consumers may call Investigator Derek Walker for information about statewide gas prices at the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline 1-800-368-8808.

"I am pleased to have the assistance from the various Sheriffs across West Virginia," Attorney General McGraw said, "Their help will prove to be an invaluable asset to the consumers in their counties. They are working with us to catch unfair business practices that dig deep into consumers' wallets."

Sheriffs now involved in the Statewide Gas Watch include:

Berkeley County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Randy Smith
Brooke County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Bernard Kazienko
Cabell County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Kim Wolfe
Clay County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Harald Fields
Doddridge County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Denver W. Cox, Jr.
Fayette County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff William R. Laird IV
Hardy County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff David Mathias
Harrison County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff James Jack
Jackson County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Len Jones
Jefferson County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Ed Boober

Kanawha County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Dave Tucker
Lewis County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Robert Rinehart
Lincoln County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff K. L. Cecil
Logan County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Johnny Mendez
Marion County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Junior Slaughter
Marshall County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Matt Clark
Mason County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Scott Simms
McDowell County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Mike Brooks
Mercer County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Harold Buckner
Mineral County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Gary White
Monongalia County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Joe Bartolo
Monroe County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Gerald Bland
Ohio County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Thomas Burgoyne
Pendleton County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Andrew Hinkle
Pleasants County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Larry Barnhart
Putnam County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Stan Farley
Raleigh County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Danny Moore
Ritchie County Sheriff's Department, Sheriff Ronald L. Barniak

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